

EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS AND FARMING OPERATIONS, DECEMBER, 1920.

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Mild, open weather for the season prevailed generally during the first half of December, and no damaging temperatures were reported from any section of the country. Field work made good progress, except for delay by rain or wet soil in portions of the South. Under the influence of the mild weather and ample soil moisture, winter grains maintained their previously reported good condition; wheat was stooling well in the Great Plains section.

The last half of the month was considerably colder, however, especially the last decade in the upper Great Plains region where unseasonably low temperatures prevailed. The cold, stormy weather during much of the last decade was unfavorable for outdoor activities and very little farm work was accomplished, except in parts of the South. Considerable damage was done to general winter truck in the western Gulf region and some damage to tender truck in the Southeast. There was considerable freezing and thawing in some of the Ohio Valley localities

which unfavorably affected winter wheat, but in general no extensive damage to fall-sown grains was reported.

Ranges and pastures continued in good condition during most of the month, except that the weather was unfavorable the latter part in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain sections, with considerable stock shrinkage in some localities, due to cold weather and closed ranges. Feeding was necessary during much of this period in all the northern part of the country except on the upper Pacific coast.

Citrus fruits were favorably affected by the weather in California and made satisfactory development; by the middle of the month shipment of navel oranges had begun from the great valley of that State. The satsuma orange crop was satisfactory in Alabama where no material damage from the weather was experienced; by the close of the month harvest was nearly completed. Citrus fruits continued in satisfactory condition in Florida, and shipments of strawberries were being made from that State the latter part of the month.